

Crash Analysis Studio

Session 10: Huntsville, Alabama

October 27, 2023



Today's Panelists

Melany Alliston

Dario Gonzalez

Ben Payment

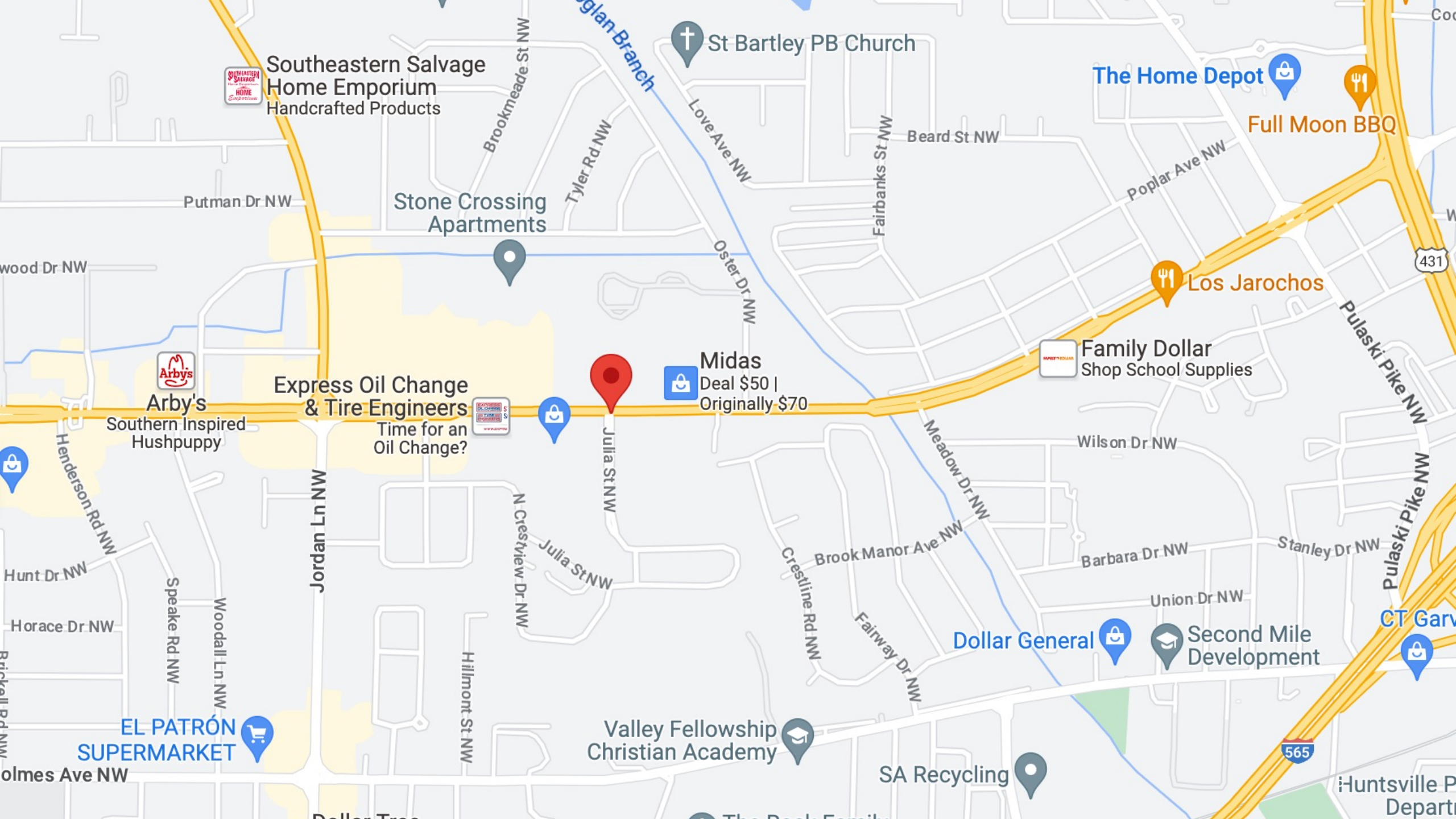
Edward Erfurt

Crash Information

- 37-year-old Joshua Gurley was cycling across University Drive – southbound onto Julia Street – when he was struck by a westbound vehicle in the intersection
- The crash occurred at 4:41pm on June 7, 2021
 - Gurley was pronounced deceased at the scene of the crash
- Weather reports tell us it was hot (high 80s) with scattered clouds – but no rain – in Huntsville on the crash date

Crash Information

- Our nominator Larry Mason confirmed the speed limit on University Drive to be 45 miles per hour (mph)
- The motorist was driving west on University Drive approaching Julia Street when they hit Gurley
- The crash report states:
 - Gurley failed to obey traffic signs or signals at the time of the collision
 - There was no evidence to support filing charges when the crash happened



Southeastern Salvage
Home Emporium
Handcrafted Products

St Bartley PB Church

The Home Depot

Full Moon BBQ

Stone Crossing
Apartments

Los Jarocho



Arby's

Express Oil Change
& Tire Engineers

Time for an
Oil Change?



Midas

Deal \$50 |
Originally \$70



Family Dollar
Shop School Supplies

Dollar General

Second Mile
Development

Valley Fellowship
Christian Academy

SA Recycling

EL PATRÓN
SUPERMARKET

CT Garv

565

431



Ordinance
Memorial School

University Drive

Julia St NW

3801

6 3145

Crash Details

- Based on the crash report diagram, we believe:
 - Gurley entered the intersection from near the Economy Inn parking lot
 - He diagonally crossed toward the east side where he was hit in a westbound lane
 - Gurley may have been hit in the lane closest to the center turn lane, though this is not confirmed
- Crash report states that the motorist “was unable to react in time” to Gurley passing in front of their vehicle
- No impairment tests were conducted

Overall Site Conditions

- **University Drive** is a two-way roadway
 - University Drive has 6 through traffic lanes – three eastbound and three westbound
 - University Drive also has a center lane dedicated to left turns in both directions at the intersection
- All four sides of the intersection are signalized
- There is one marked crosswalk on the west side of the intersection across University Drive



**West Side of University
Joshua's Diagonal Cross to East Side Began Here**



**East Side of University
Collision Happened in Westbound Through Traffic Lane**



View of Intersection looking North from Julia Street



View of Intersection looking South to Julia Street



**Looking West across University
Sidewalk Adjacent to Cash Location**



Looking South Across University
West Side of intersection

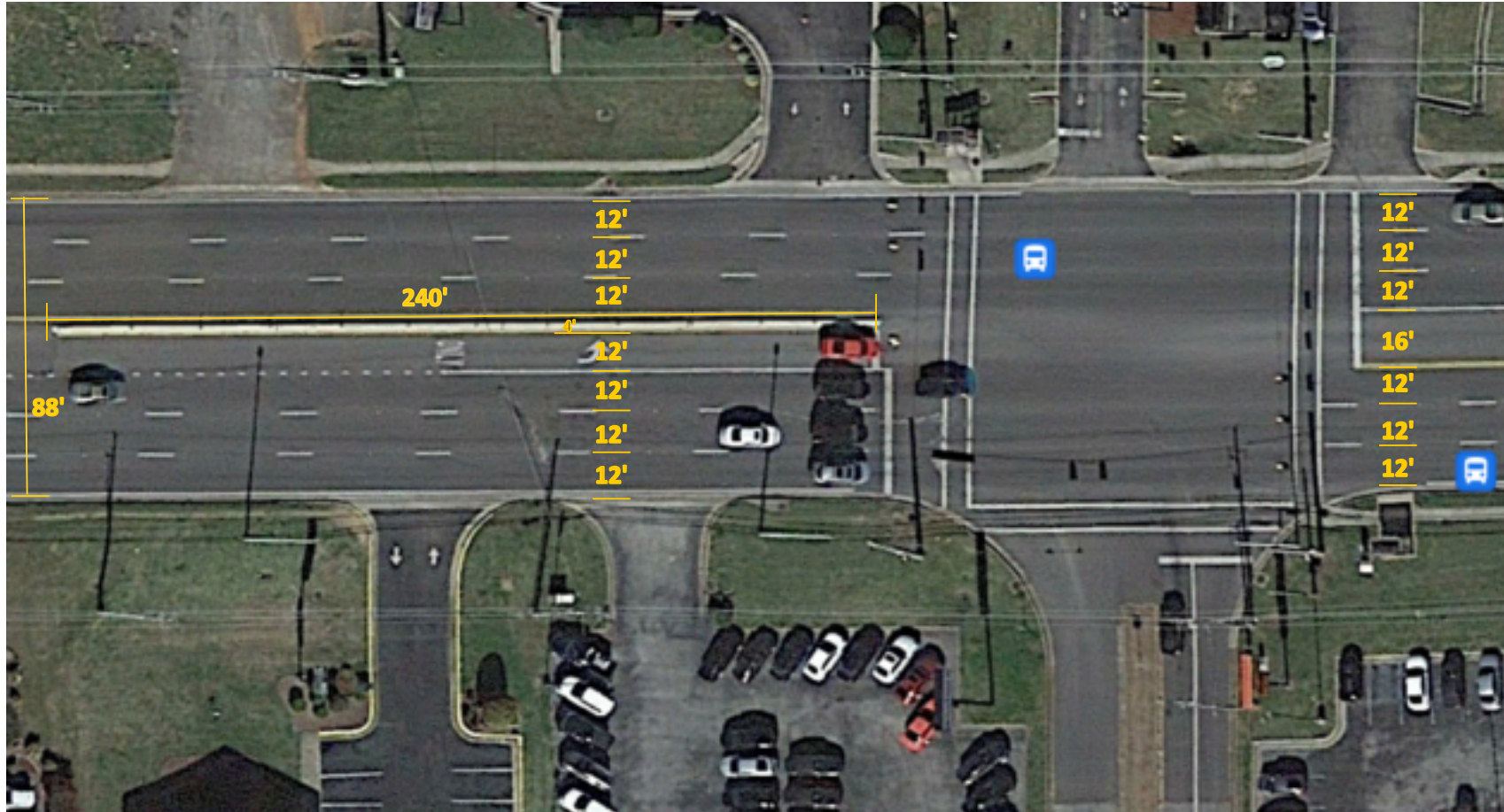


**Pedestrian crossing University
East of Crash Location – No Crosswalk**

Site of June 8th, 2021 Crash



WEST
University Dr. / US HWY 72

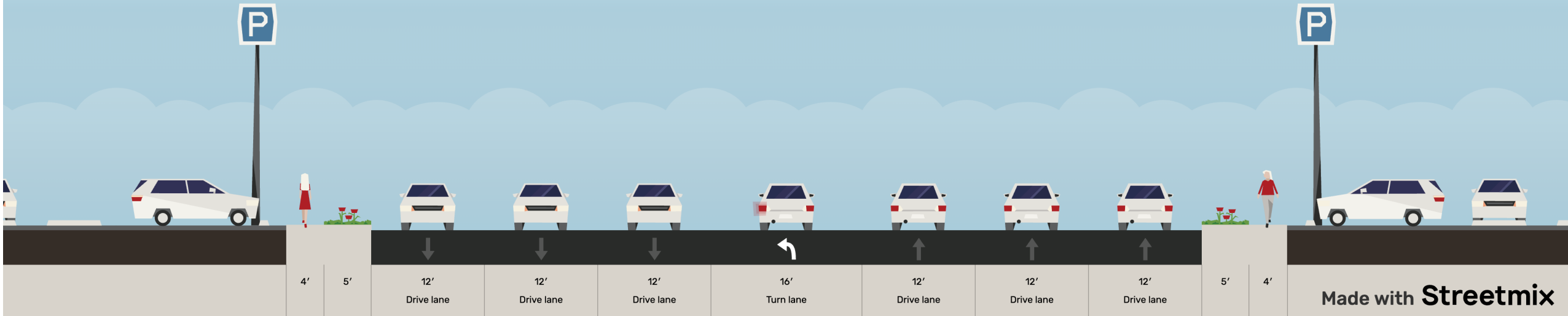


EAST
University Dr. / US HWY 72

Julia St NW

As of 11/16/2022 – reflects design at time of collision

University Drive/US Highway 72



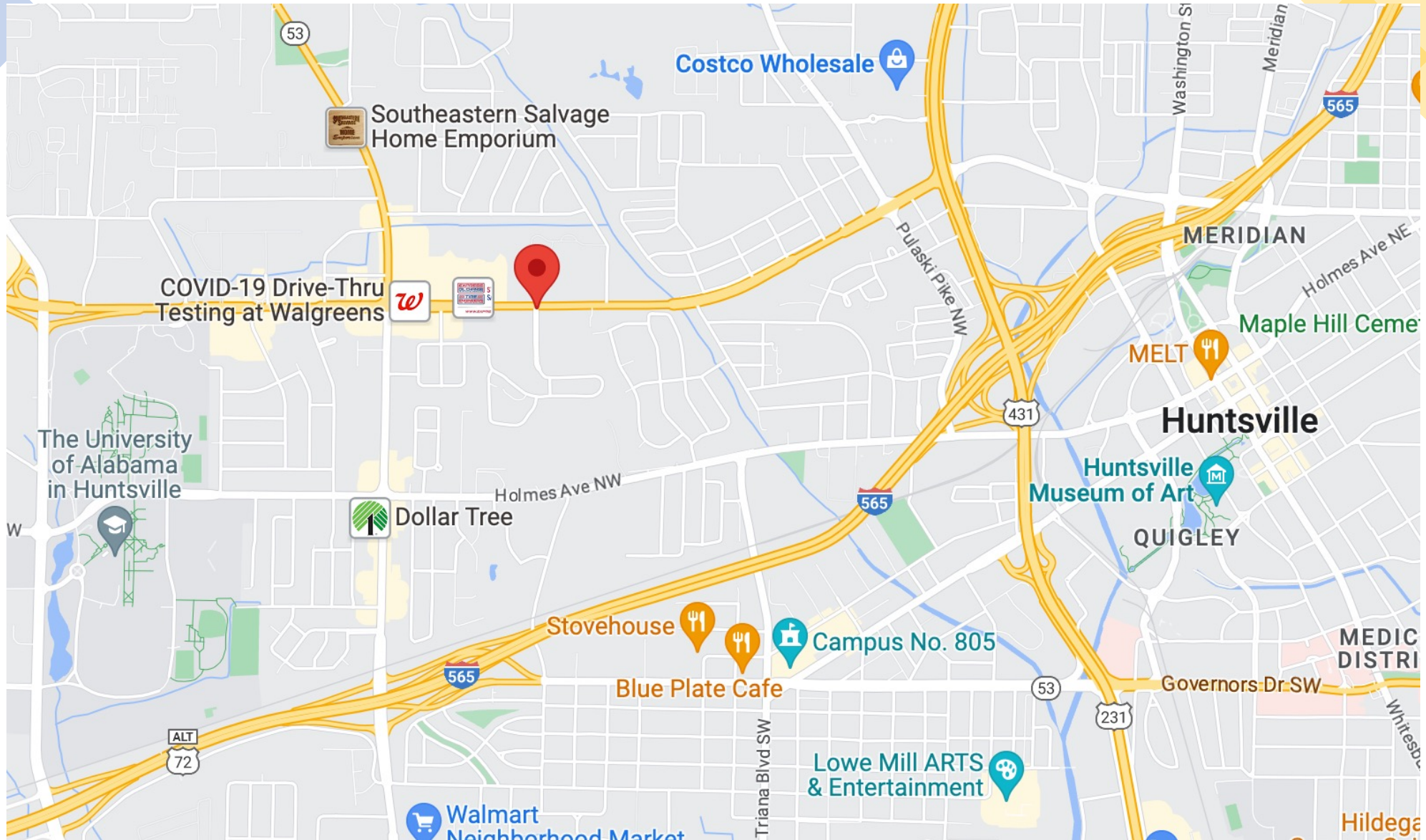
Eastbound Lanes

Westbound Lanes

- 2 Sidewalks: 4' each
- 2 Planters: 5' each
- 6 Travel Lanes: 12' each
- 1 Left Turn Lane: 16'
- Total Width: 106'

Overall Site Conditions

- Sub-Urban Development Pattern with Residential and Commercial Properties
- Proximity to state routes 53, 431, and Highway 565
- Nearby the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), multiple housing communities, the Clearview Cancer Institute (CCI) Medical Complex, and numerous hotels and inns
- Housing & land uses along this corridor interact with UAH



Overall Site Conditions – Modifications

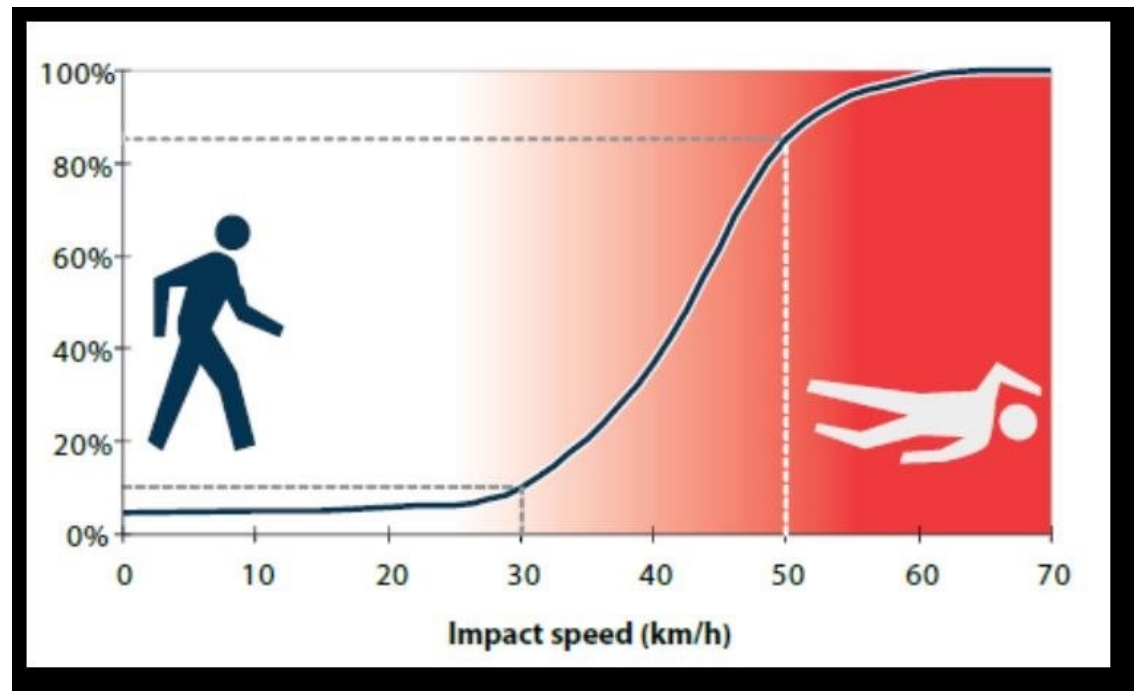
- Infrastructure modifications between November 2020 and November 2022, but not to the roadway
- The eastbound bus stop and shelter on SE corner of University and Julia were removed
- Pedestrian curb ramp added on the north side of the east crossing.
- City public works department would have been charged with the shelter and ramp modifications

Overall Site Conditions

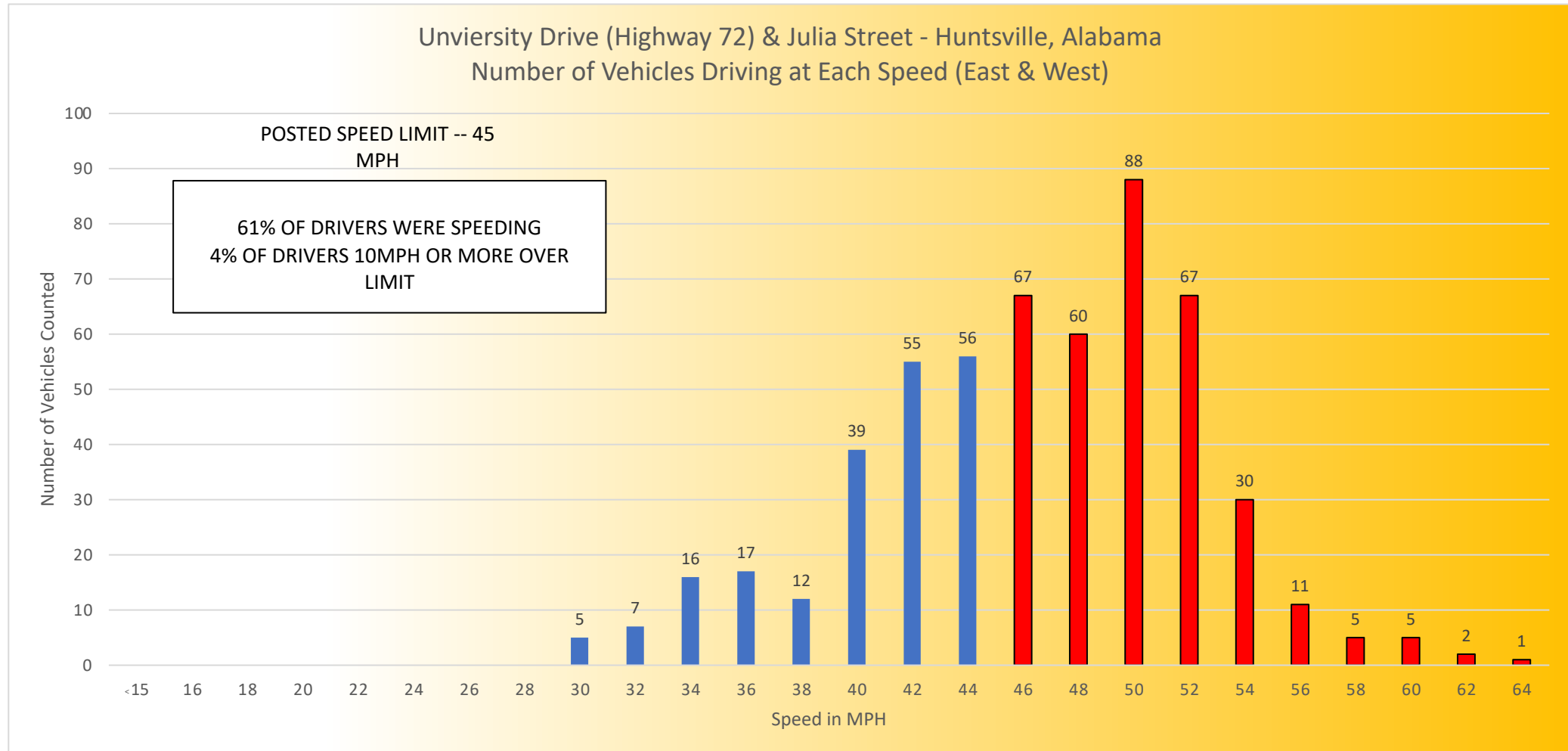
- Preliminary Speed Study indicates significant number of automobiles traveling at fatal speeds

The effects of higher speed limits on traffic fatalities in the United States, 1993–2017.

-Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



Speed Data



*85th percentile speed = 52 MPH
543 cars tracked

Acknowledgements & Special Thanks

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- Strong Towns Staff